Vote SWP!
Expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, party
BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
With the 2021 elections just days away, the Militant urges readers to campaign for and vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidates and join in the fight to advance our party’s working-class program, which the SWP fights for 25 years.

Students study by solar lamp in Benin in 2017. While 700 million people worldwide lack access to electricity, anti-working-class environmental schemes call for ban on new power plants.

Back Kellogg strike, fight against divisive wage tiers
‘Equal pay for equal work’ wins wide support
BY SUSAN LAMONT
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — “This is my first strike,” Gerald Lawrence told this Militant worker-correspondent on the Kellogg’s picket line here Oct. 22. He has worked at the cereal plant for two years. “We’ve gotten so much support! At first I didn’t know what it would mean to be on strike, but now I’ve learned about solidarity. I’ve learned about our history here, going back to the 1968 sanitation workers’ strike” when Martin Luther King Jr. came to provide support.

Kellogg strikers and supporters rally in Memphis Oct. 8. Kellogg strike, like strike at John Deere and others today, is battle against bosses’ drive to put crisis of capitalist system on our backs.

UAW strike at John Deere is a labor battle for all workers
BY EDWIN FRUIT
WATERLOO, Iowa — The hall of United Auto Workers Local 838 here was teeming with striking union members Oct. 21. They were signing up for medical insurance being provided by the local and taking advantage of the strike cafeteria, staffed by union members, where they can get free meals. More than 10,000 UAW members are on strike at John Deere’s 14 agricultural and construction equipment plants, most in Iowa and Illinois. They had voted by 90% to strike beginning Oct. 14 when

Puerto Rican actions demand gov’t act to end power blackouts
BY SETH GALINSKY
Thousands took to the streets of San Juan Oct. 15 to demand the Puerto Rican government cancel the obscenely lucrative contract it gave Luma Energy, a privately owned U.S.-Canadian joint venture, to take over the U.S. colony’s electrical transmission and distribution network.

Cuba mobilizes to oppose US-gov’t organized call for Nov. provocations
BY SETH GALINSKY
Groups organized and financed by the U.S. government have announced plans for public actions in several provinces in Cuba Nov. 15, pushing the slander that Cuba is a brutal “dictatorship.” Government officials denied the request for march permits, pointing out the provocations are part of Washington’s decades-long campaign for “regime change” against Cuba’s socialist revolution seeking to “fracture and divide” the Cuban people.

Working class must lead in defense of land and labor, stewardship of nature
BY TERRY EVANS
For 25 years the United Nations has hosted periodic conferences on climate change, where rival government leaders pose as self-righteous defenders of the environment. These capitalist regimes compete ruthlessly to advance their interests while perpetuating the fraud their goal is to protect the planet for future generations. The Conference Of The Parties summit (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, beginning Oct. 31 will be no different. More than 100 heads of state are expected to attend. Some, like Chinese President Xi Jinping, say they probably won’t. None will pro-

Inside

Cuba’s socialist revolution
Calls to silence UK professor hit free speech, women’s rights
Sectarian battles, meddling by Tehran deepen Lebanon crisis
–On the picket line, p. 5–
United Metro Energy workers rally in New York strike battle
Clarks shoe workers strike against wage cuts in UK
Calls to silence UK professor hit free speech, women’s rights

BY CATHERINA TIRSEN

The Militant November 8, 2021

In it she writes that “trans Feminism. porters of women’s rights who main- accuse Stock of being on the “wrong display on campus of posters and stick- demn the escalation of this intimidation across the U.K. have signed a state - protect her security. getting Stock appeared across campus. - name of fighting transphobia. against calls by campus protesters for Stock is winning support in her fight -terists to study the writings of Sankara. of Sankara. ers the struggles of working -women’s rights, she says. Two years ago 40 faculty members attended a student-organized event called at the same time as one of Stock’s lectures to protest her views. In January 600 philosophy academics in the U.K. and internationally signed a letter condemning Stock. The Sussex branch of the Univer- sity and College Union refused to ful- fill its responsibilities to defend Stock from the calls to remove her, instead urging the college’s management “to take a clear and strong stance against transphobia.” Like the middle-class left, the UCU yields the defense of rights that are crucial to the working class to the governing Conservative Party, which acts as if it is taking the moral high ground as it governs for the bosses. Its minister for women and equali- ties, Elizabeth Truss, and Universi- ties Minister Michelle Donelan con- demned the attacks on Stock. Senior figures in the opposition Labour Party are divided over demands for the pro- fessor’s firing for expressing scientif views that are shared by millions — that differences between men and women are real and immutable. Female academics across the U.K. are facing threats and witch hunts for holding similar views as Stock’s. Jo Phoenix, a professor at the Open Uni- versity, had a December 2020 lecture cancelled after students threatened to “shut it down.” Phoenix’s “crime” was to urge people self- identifying as trans women should be placed in women’s prisons. Professors Rosa Freedman at the University of Oxford, and Selina Todd at Oxford University, have had classes and speeches cancelled for expressing similar views after cam- paigns targeting their free speech.

Professor Kathleen Stock has won support against demands by campus protesters University of Sussex in Brighton fire her. In name of fighting transphobia, they target free speech and her defense of women’s rights. Inset, her book, Material Girls — Why Reality Matters for Feminism.

THE MILITANT

Interest in Thomas Sankara, Burkina Revolution

The trial of the killers of Thomas Sankara, and of the 1983-87 revolution he led in Burkina Faso, is fueling new interest in his example and speeches. The ‘Militant’ covers the struggles of working people in Africa and urges fighters to study the writings of Sankara.

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Vote Socialist Workers Party!  
Continued from front page

Militant/Josefina Otero

Alyson Kennedy, left, SWP Texas campaign chair, and SWP campaigner Dennis Richter, right, talk with Percy Gipson in Fort Worth, Texas, Oct. 23. “Justice for Tiara,” painted on Gipson’s truck, is part of fight to force a real investigation into street killing of Gipson’s cousin, Tiara Williams. “Violent crime, gangs, come from workings of the capitalistic system,” said Richter. “That’s what I want to hear! How can I join you guys?” said Hall, who subscribed to the Militant and purchased Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power. “The book tells the lessons of what Malcolm learned in the last year of his life from meeting revolutionary fighters in Cuba and Africa. He saw that the solutions he was looking for went beyond Black nationalism,” Navera said. “Yes,” said Hall, “he saw that oppression was a global problem. But what are you doing? What’s your aim?”

Fruit said Malcolm was a revolutionary who explained that the capitalist system needed to be overthrown and replaced. “We are revolutionaries too. We think it will take a revolution in the United States to end wars, exploitation and racism. We look to the Cuban Revolution as an example of the kind of society human beings can build.”

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Deere strike battle for all labor

Continued from front page
the bosses refused to back off attacks on their pay, benefits and working conditions. Key issues include company demands to expand to three diverse tiers of pay and benefits.

This Militant worker-correspondent came here with Mark Severs, a member of Teamsters Local 638 in Minneapolis. Severs had worked with Teamsters Local 120, also based in Minneapolis, to bring down cases of water and boxes of snacks for the strikers’ picket shacks.

Strikers at the Local 838 union hall told us similar donations were coming in from all over the state of Iowa, but in the United States. “We’ve gotten monetary and food donations, firewood and material for constructing weatherproof huts for each picket site,” Paul Jungen II, the executive director of the Hawkeye Area Chamber of Commerce, explained that there are 3,100 Deere workers in Local 838. He said they’ve set up nine picket shacks covering the company’s five plants in Waterloo. And that workers will get $275 weekly strike pay as they stand their ground and fight the bosses.

Hundreds of strikers and their supporters rallied outside the Local 838 hall Oct. 23, chanting and listening to other unions and local politicians — many who have relatives who worked for Deere — offer solidarity.

“Your fight here, your strike — when you voted 10,000 strong to go out the door and do what was right to protect future generations of John Deere workers and UAW workers, it wasn’t just for them,” Rick Moyle, executive director of the Hawkeye Area Labor Council, told the rally. “It was for the entire movement. It was for every working family, not only in the state of Iowa, but in the United States.”

“There’s been a resurgence in union power, and it’s what is needed at this time,” Phillip Sanchez, a Mason City farmer and member of Teamsters Local 238, said.

Waterloo Mayor Quentin Hart joined the rally. The five members of the Board of Supervisors of Black Hawk County, where Waterloo is located, issued a proclamation supporting the strike.

After the rally participants fanned out to augment picket lines at the plants. Deere bosses feel some pressure. They put out a news release the day before the rally announcing they will continue to provide health care for the strikers.

At the same time, they got a compli-

The Militant   November 8, 2021   4

ant judge in Davenport, south of here, to issue a draconian restraining order limiting UAW Local 281 members picketing Deere there. The injunction, issued by Chief Judge Marlita Greve, restricts workers picketing “near the gates” to four. As winter approaches, she barred bonfires of any kind and strikers bringing chairs to the picket line. She prohibited picketing or congregating “near the contractor gate entrance.”

Fight for dignity, future generations

Kayla Schaefers, who has worked 10 years at John Deere and is a member of the local’s Women’s Committee, took us to meet some of her co-workers at one of the picket lines. “I used to see people on strike when I was younger and never dreamed that I would be in this situation,” she said. “But sticking together makes us stronger and it will help us get what we’re asking for.” She told us that women make up 20% of the workforce at Deere.

Workers at this picket line told us “the union gave concessions in the 1997 contract, including approving a two-tier system. Now the company wants a third tier for new workers. They wouldn’t get a pension like we do, and their insurance benefits would cost them more.”

They pointed out the company is making money hand over fist, and tells the press it expects 2021 net income will be between $5.7 and $5.9 billion.

As we visited another picket line, donated wood frames were being dropped off to assemble weatherproof shacks. The same thing was happening at all the other picket sites.

Strikers told us that a number of workers at the plant also labor after-hours on their own farms. News media has been helping Deere bosses try to pit farm families against the strikers, as the strike is taking place while many farmers are harvesting their crops.

Minnesota farmer Brian Brekken was quoted by KTTC-TV in Rochester, Minnesota, as saying, “Before, when John Deere had machines down, you get the parts the next day. Now they’re saying that’s not going to happen.”

“So, if one of these went down and we can’t get the part, you know, we’ll be sitting!”

On another picket line we talked to David Smith, who has worked for John Deere for 18 years. “We need to stand together with our numbers and we are in this for the long haul,” he said.

“Deere tries to keep us divided with the different tiers,” Smith said. “What if my kids want to work here? Why should they get lower pay, little benefits and no pension? We’re doing this for them.”

Farmers reject Deere moves to pit them against strike

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHICAGO — It’s an old play. When workers stand up and fight to improve wages and working conditions, the bosses and big-business press cry crocodile tears for those they claim will be hurt by the “greedy” workers.

In the case of the United Auto Workers strike at John Deere, a propaganda campaign is underway to try to pit farmers against the strikers.

An Oct. 18 article in the online Farm Journal claimed that after just five days “the strike is already impacting farmers who are busy with harvest,” by making it harder to get parts and new farm equipment.

“The John Deere strike has farmers worried,” read a headlines on the NFB News website Oct. 19. If you read past the headline, what actually comes across is how farmers were being squeezed by skyrocketing prices for new and used equipment and parts well before the strike. It cites an auctioneer who said used tractors and other farm equipment are selling for 30% to 50% more than they were two years ago. Meanwhile, John Deere is boasting record profits.

“John Deere is obviously making a lot of money. We think they can afford to share more with the workers,” Gary Hoskey told the Militant in a phone interview. He grows corn, soybeans and hay on 300 acres in central Iowa. He told us that if John Deere and other companies in southeastern Nebraska and in vice president of the Nebraska Farmers Union.

“But the cost of fertilizer, fuel and equipment is shooting up. That’s going to put more of a squeeze on farmers.”

“Already if you wanted a new John Deere combine you have to wait until 2023, they’re so backlogged,” Jantzen said. He was impressed by the fact that UAW members voted down a third tier wage. “People are sick of being pushed around and ignored.”

“We think that farmers benefit from a strike at Deere and other companies in recent years demanding the ‘right to re-
The Militant

November 11, 1996

New Delhi - The Indian telecommunications ministry has decided to impose a nationwide strike over wage disputes.

The ministry has announced that it will impose a nationwide strike on the 50 workers at the state-owned P&T (postal and telecommunications) company. The ministry has said that the workers will be paid the new minimum wage of 11.16 pounds an hour.

The strike is due to begin on November 25 and will last for 25 days.

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

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The strike is expected to cause significant disruptions to the telecommunications industry in India, as the workers are involved in a key role in delivering phone and internet services to millions of people.

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Sectarian battles, meddying with Tehran deepen Lebanon crisis

BY ROY LANDERSEN

In the aftermath of the killings, Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, accused Geagea of trying to restart the civil war and boasted that Hezbollah’s militias numbered 100,000 armed fighters. The entire Lebanese army is only 85,000. Nearby, 2,000 members of Hezbollah have been killed in the last decade during the group’s bloody intervention aiding Tehran in neighboring Syria’s civil war. They have fought to prop up Bashar al-Assad’s widely hated regime and to extend the military, economic and political sway of the Iranian rulers in the region. Over a million Syrians have sought refuge in Lebanon since the civil war began.

Having dominated successive Lebanese governments, Hezbollah is now identified in the eyes of many working people as part of the capitalist ruling class that has enriched itself and is responsible for the sharply worsening conditions they face.

Economic crisis hits workers

The resources of Lebanon’s army have been generated by the humanitarian crisis since the devastation of the country’s currency, the Lebanese pound. Security chiefs warned recently that the crash in the value of soldiers’ wages would undermine their combat morale. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland announced a further $6.7 million in aid to the Lebanese military during an Oct. 14 visit to Beirut. The U.S. rulers seek to bolster the Lebanese army in order to counter Hezbollah and Tehran. Lebanon also needs aid to the Lebanese government under Prime Minister Najib Mikati to reach an austerity agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

Both the Lebanese rulers and the imperial, U.S.-backed IMF agree the “solution” to the economic crisis requires ending subsidies on imported food, medicines and fuel that working people depend upon. This would come on top of already dire shortages of these vital supplies.

Back Kellogg strike, fight against divisive wage tiers

Continued from front page

of the two plant entrances every third day, many put in more hours. Some come every day. The main picket line is in front of the plant is on Airways Boulevard, a busy thoroughfare heading to the nearby airport. Honks and shouts of support for the strikers from passing motorists and truck drivers are nonstop, all day and all night.

Local 252G hosted a solidarity barbeque Oct. 23 that drew some 100 union members, their families, supporters from several area unions, the NAACP and others from the community, including a contingent from the Memphis unions. The occasion was a celebration, whose membership includes several strikers. They drove their lovingly cared-for cars in a contingent to the picket line.

“Equal pay for equal work” is one of the most popular signs on the picket line, reflecting union members’ strong opposition to Kellogg’s divisive wage structure. The company agreed to a new permanent two-tier wage and benefit setup that would deepen divisions among workers.

The union wants to boost its profits by making permanent two classes of workers — “legacy” employees hired before 2015 and “transitional” workers hired between 2015 and 2019. Transient employees, who work for less but receive the same pay and benefits of longtime employees.

“Afer the 10-month lockout in 2013-14, we settled that 30% of the workforce here could be ‘transitional’ workers,” said Local 252G member Scott Evans, a maintenance mechanic who has worked at the Memphis plant for over a decade. “Part of the agreement was that those workers would move up to full pay and benefits over time. But that never happened, except for a few that replaced workers who retired.

“Now the company wants to remove the cap of 30% on the number of ‘transitional’ workers they can hire,” Evans said. Longtime employees would keep their wages, pensions and health insurance for now, “but there would be nothing for the ‘trans- 

tionals,’ who will be more and more of the workforce.”

As the Bakery Workers union website explains, “The Company is trying to divide the workforce by asking the current workforce to sell out the next generation of Kellogg workers.”

Like many Kellogg’s strikers, Evans is inspired by the number of other strikes going on around the country, including the strikes earlier this year at Frito-Lay and Nabisco, both organized by the BCTGM, and the current strike of 10,000 United Auto Workers at John Deere. “I told my wife that 2021 is going to go down in the history books,” he said.

John Deere workers are fighting for higher wages and against imposition of a third-tier setup for workers at that company.

“I took the job at Kellogg’s because I thought I had a chance to become a ‘legacy’ employee,” said Nadine Alexander, who has worked at the plant since April. As a ‘transitional’ worker, she makes $19.92 an hour, compared to $33 an hour for longtime workers, she said. “We get no pension, only a 401(k) plan, and have to pay much more for our health insurance. They want us to use vaca-

tion days instead of using Family and Medical Leave,” a federal program that allows workers to take unpaid time off when they need it for medi-
cal or family reasons.

“At the same time, we’re making millions for Kellogg’s,” she added. “We worked seven days a week all through the pandemic. We had co-

workers who died from COVID. And this is how the company treats us.”

Kellogg’s reported global sales of $1.6 billion in the last quarter, and profits of some $380 million.

“How could we agree to a perma-
nent two-tier setup?” Local 252G Vice President Kevin Bradshaw told the Militant. “It would mean two classes of membership in our union and we would be divided among ourselves.

We can’t sell out our future,” he said.

Workers at the Memphis plant make Corn Flakes, Frosted Flakes, Apple Jacks, Rice Krispies and other Kellogg’s cereals.

The international union has promi-

dently displayed on its website — BCTGM.org — two special features, “Facts Behind the Kellogg Strike” and “One Way to Support the #KelloggStrike.” They contain information helpful to winning support to the fight from fellow workers, explain where you can join their picket lines, and where you can send a message of solidarity or a contribution to each of the four union locals on strike.

Kellogg announced Aug. 25 it had offered to restart contract talks with the BCTGM, including on the two-tier setup.

“You think about all the money they are spending to try to break us, but can’t agree to equal pay and ben-

efits,” Bradshaw wrote on the local’s Facebook page Oct. 24. “If you think this is not war then you need to wake up! Come too far to turn around all we can do now is turn the pressure up!”

Outside the Kellogg plant, a Christmas decoration is seen surrounded by pickets. An Internet site explains, “The Company is trying to divide the workforce by asking the current workforce to sell out the next generation of Kellogg workers.”

Leaders of the reactionary Hezbollah in Lebanon claim the Oct. 14 sniper attack that killed seven and injured some 30 people at a protest against the country’s sectarian-based government was carried out by rival Christian-based Lebanese Forces.

Hezbollah, a Tehran-backed group organized in predominantly Shiite neighborhoods, has a powerful and well-armed militia. Hezbollah and its allies dominate the country’s coalition government. Lebanese Forces militiamen were fought Hezbollah and other Muslim-based groups during the country’s 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanese Forces leaders repeatedly deny starting the deadly October conflict. They say Hezbollah-led demonstrators, some armed, approached a Christian neighborhood and that residents there fired on them in self-defense. Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea was quotid Oct. 25 to testify before a militia court over the clashes. Sixty-eight people have been charged so far over the killings.

Hundreds of supporters of Hezbollah and the Shi’ite and Amal Movements had been demonstrating to demand the removal of Tarek Bitar, the judge investigating a huge explosion at Beirut’s port in August of last year. The blast killed over 200 people, injured thousands more and forced a quarter of a million to flee their homes.

The disaster was caused by the detonation of 2,750 tons of highly flammable ammonium nitrate kept in a port warehouse near densely populated residential areas. For six years authorities debated what to do about this but did nothing, even after a fire started there. Hezbollah uses Beirut’s port to store its weapons, and an warehouse near a Christian neighborhood and that residents there fired on them in self-defense. Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea was quotid Oct. 25 to testify before a militia court over the clashes. Sixty-eight people have been charged so far over the killings.

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**Protests hit landlord who killed tenant arguing against eviction**

BY MALCOLM JARRETT  
WASHINGTON, Pa. — On Sept. 1, Leonard Wayne Williams Jr., who is African American, a U.S. Air Force veteran and a single father of two, was shot and killed by Quentin Trisler Jr. Trisler is the son of Williams’ landlord.  

Trisler had gotten into an argument with Williams after putting an eviction notice on his door ordering Williams and his family to move out. The killing and the decision of Washington District Attorney Jason Walsh not to press charges, sparked a wave of protests.  

Trisler had posted eviction notices at several other homes that day. The Joseph Biden administration let a federal pandemic-based moratorium on evictions run out in August.  

Williams’ 10- and 15-year-old daughters witnessed the entire confrontation, including the shooting. They said Williams was in the house when Trisler drove up and posted the eviction sign. Their father went out to ask him why he was being evicted and argued with him.  

Trisler went to his truck and pulled out a gun. Williams raised his hands and backed away, saying, “You’re not go- ing to shoot me in front of my daughters, are you?” Trisler pulled the trigger, shooting him twice in the chest.  

The DA’s office said the killing was “justifiable homicide.” Walsh said there were four witnesses besides Williams’ daughters who claimed Williams was the aggressor and Trisler had reason to fear for his life. The DA refused to release the police report on the killing or identify any of the witnesses.  

Nicole Grayson, Williams’ sister-in-law, told the Washington Observer-Reporter that the family was “absolutely livid.”  

“When we found him, he was in the middle of the road, 10 feet away from the truck. The police are saying he was shot at the truck,” she said. “He is the 10 feet away, but he got shot at the truck.”  

“We’ve been kept in the dark about everything. We want answers,” Nichols Butler, Williams’ younger brother, told the paper. “We want to know where the four witnesses were and where they came from. And we want to know why you can kill somebody and they are just free.”  

“He didn’t give us a chance. To him Leonard was just another Black man in the middle of the road,” Leonard Williams Sr., Williams’ father and a 67-year-old retired prison janitor, told the Militant. “We want him to reopen the case and release the police report.”  

Since the killing, family members and other protesters have carried out daily actions and weekly rallies outside the Washington County Courthouse. The protests have drawn support from the Washington branch of the NAACP and the Center for Coalfield Justice, a group that has successfully backed miners and others in the region.  

Consol Energy runs the largest underground mining complex in the country that is a nonunion operation. Washington is also home to one of ATI’s nine steel plants, where workers carried out a hard-fought three-month strike earlier this year.  

“I support these demonstrations because I don’t think justice has been served,” Andrew Goudy, president of the Washington NAACP, said. “My heart goes out to the family. Was it justi- ficable homicide? Leonard Williams was out- side the truck unarmed.”  

Family members are raising money to pay for a lawyer and fight for justice. They’re selling T-shirts and Butler has set up a GoFundMe site you can contribute to.  

Williams was killed the day before his high school graduation. He would have been 37. “We’re in this for justice, not money,” Williams Sr. said. “They can give us all the money in the world and it won’t bring Leonard back.”

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**Vaccines must be the property of humanity, not for monopoly profit**

BY ROY LANDESEN  
“The U.S. capitalist rulers and their government should be compelled to rapidly expand production and distribution of enough vaccines to immunize billions of working people around the world against COVID-19,” Martha, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, told the Militant Oct. 25.  

“But pharmaceutical bosses, backed by the government, are driven to maximize profits, which means a vaccine shortage with deadly results,” Jarrett said.  

Moderna, Pfizer and other capital- ist pharmaceutical companies were granted gigantic handouts by Washington as they rushed to cap- ture vaccine markets. Their owner- ship of vaccine patents has guaran- teed their monopoly and blocked the urgent manufacture and distribution of medicines worldwide.  

“We’ve seen the significant develop- ments as their own private property, not a conquest that should be placed at the service of humanity,” said Jarrett. “Our unions and other working-class organizations should fight to force these companies to make their products and knowledge available worldwide.”  

Only a tiny fraction of vaccines have been provided to the least devel- oped capitalist countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, often at exorbitant prices, while the 200 governments that started vaccination programs before Oct. 25, the seven slowest have vaccinated only 1% of the population. Five of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa. The other two are Haiti and war-ravaged Yemen.  

Under former President Donald Trump’s Operation Warp Speed, Moderna was backed with government scientific cooperation to develop its mRNA technology. It received federal grants of $2.5 billion for everything from development to clinical trials.  

“Trump’s Operation Warp Speed, Moderna and other capitalist pharmaceutical companies were granted gigantic handouts by Washington as they rushed to cap- ture vaccine markets. Their ownership of vaccine patents has guaranteed their monopoly and blocked the urgent manufacture and distribution of medicines worldwide.”

**Quality is which class rules**

“This is the character of the en- tire medical system in the U.S. — to generate profits for a handful, not to provide health care. To change this re- quires changing what class rules this country,” Jarrett said.  

Moderna and rival manufacturers like Pfizer are using their monopoly to charge premium rates to countries in the semicolonial world, where the cost of the drug is out of reach for millions. In effect they are delaying vaccine dis-tribution and extending the length of the pandemic in order to uphold their grip on markets and profits.  

The U.S. government paid $15 or more for each dose, which it dis- penses without cost. Moderna is sell- ing a limited supply at a premium rate to less industrialized countries. It charged the governments of Botswana, Thailand and Colombia nearly double the U.S. price.  

Both Moderna and Pfizer are de- fending their patents on the ground- breaking mRNA technology because there is a wide range of possible — and highly profitable future medi- cal applications that can be developed utilizing the know-how.  

“Under former President Donald Trump’s Operation Warp Speed, Moderna was backed with government scientific cooperation to develop its mRNA technology. It received federal grants of $2.5 billion for everything from development to clinical trials.”

**Protests hit landlord who killed tenant arguing against eviction**

The Militant   November 8, 2021            7
Continued from front page
For many on the island — including thousands of Puerto Ricans protest blackouts, which have raised green state control of electric utility by the United States, in Washington, D.C. Puerto Ricans protest blackouts. It's been a long time coming. There are other factors at play in the power struggle, including a raft of variances by capitalist labor unions worldwide to cut emissions, but there's still a new high in 2019 in the U.S. reports.
President Joseph Biden plans to attend the summit, to tout his plans that U.S. carbon emissions will be halved by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. These plans are ambitious, even if U.S. emissions would still be greater than that time any of the world's largest. Biden predicts the U.S. will reach "net-zero" by 2050. The widespread and profitable trade in so-called carbon credits or "offsets" is a scam that lets the rulers of the earth's 1% of the world's population to cut emissions, these hit workers in emerging and developing countries.
Biden claims that the new plan is a "milestone" for Puerto Rico. They say the bondholders have agreed to re- do the debt to some $34 billion, as long as the colonial regime pays $7 billion long-on front, and $31 billion a year for debt service. The plan is also contingent on slashing government pensions for at least 10% of the retirees. The Junta claims that the new plan "is not a proposal."

The next day Blinken went to Colombia.
United States Workers Marchers in Washington, D.C., part of an extraordinary campaign against the pandemic and the worldwide to cut emissions, these hit workers in emerging and developing countries. The Junta claims that the new plan is a "milestone" for Puerto Rico. They say the bondholders have agreed to re-do the debt to some $34 billion, as long as the colonial regime pays $7 billion long-on front, and $31 billion a year for debt service. The plan is also contingent on slashing government pensions for at least 10% of the retirees. The Junta claims that the new plan "is not a proposal."

"If we translate everything commonly thought of as an environmental issue into how to advance the protection of the working class, and how the working class can extend that protection to all, then we can hardly ever go wrong," SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes writes. "With that approach, we will increase the possibilities for concrete solidarity against ecologic al abuses and outrages."

As workers and our unions fight to protect production from the bosses, we will be able to enforce safety on the job, in sur- vival, and in productivity, and in the production of workers. In the drive for control, we will discover that control.

Continued from front page
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Black troops aided fight against Washington’s war in Philippines

Blacks in America’s Wars — The Shift in Attitudes from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam by Robert W. Mullen is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for November. The excerpt below reveals a little known side of the story behind the American war on the Philippines.

The Filipino guerrillas actively encouraged Blacks to desert. They referred to both Black troops and Filipino peasants as “niggers.” But most also felt that a good military showing by Black troops in the Philippines would enhance the cause of all Blacks in the United States and tried to reconcile these conflicting sentiments.


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ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 3QW. Tel: (020) 3538 8900. Email: cldonjon@fastmail.fm Manchester: 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, As the Americanization of the islands progressed, and the color bars against Blacks and Filipinos also progressed, Black troops increasingly felt that they were being used in an unjust war, that they were in part responsible for the racism against Filipinos that they could see spreading within the American military.

Although most Black soldiers swallowed their misgivings, with the hope that their actions would reflect favorably on Blacks in America, this was not the case. The racial oppression rate among the Black troops was very high. According to Stephen Bonsall, desertions from Negro regiments was very different from white deserters. While whites generally deserted after quarrels with officers, or because of opposition to discipline or laziness, Blacks deserted “for the purpose of joining the insurgents.”

The Filipino guerrillas actively encouraged Blacks to desert. They referred to both Black troops and Filipinos as “niggers.” But most also felt that a good military showing by Black troops in the Philippines would enhance the cause of all Blacks in the United States and tried to reconcile these conflicting sentiments.

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SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT
Emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution!

Statement by Joanne Kaniyanszki, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, Oct. 27.

The Socialist Workers Party points to Cuba’s socialist revolution as an example for working people to study and emulate. It shows the road forward for workers and farmers everywhere to organize in our millions to take political power into our own hands and end the immoral brutality of dog-eat-dog capitalism once and for all.

That is why the U.S. capitalists’ gravy train—government organizes and funds counterrevolutionary groups in Cuba, part of its unceasing efforts to overturn the Cuban government and reimpose capitalist exploitation. President Joseph Biden’s administration has tightened Washington’s decades-long economic and political war aimed at starving the Cuban people into submission.

The U.S. rulers will continue this offensive as the social and economic crisis of capitalism deepens here, leading workers to use and strengthen our unions to defend our wages, conditions and rights, and to aid all those who fight against the exploitation and oppression inherent in capitalist rule. You can see this unfolding in strike battles across the country today.

“What Cuba gives to the peoples,” Fidel Castro said in 1962, “is its example.” It’s an example to millions of workers in the U.S. who reject being made to bear the brunt of capitalism’s worldwide crisis and the impact of its never-ending wars.

Led by Castro and the July 26 Movement, Cuba’s pioneers were driven by an inherent zeal to accomplish and what we can become.

They overthrew capitalist rule and brought to pow-

era workers and farmers government. Millions were organized to end capitalist property relations, taking into their own hands the factories, plantations and banks, and reorganizing production to meet the needs of the toiling majority. At every step the revolutionary government has fought against the struggles through their struggles, gaining confidence in their own capacities. It opened the door to deepen the fight to eradicate racism and to win women’s emancipation.

For decades, workers increasingly recognized the socialist character of their accomplishments and the importance of the Marxist character of their leadership. In making a socialist revolution, they transformed themselves, becoming disciplined and class-conscious revolutionaries.

Defending their conquests, they defeated a U.S.-backed invasion and have brought crucial international solidarity to their fights against imperialist exploitation ever since.

Che Guevara, one of the Cuban Revolution’s central political leaders, explained, “To build communism it is necessary, simultaneously with the new material foundations, to build the new man.” This is the potential of the working class everywhere.

Some 425,000 Cuban international volunteers fought courageously to defeat the South African apartheid army’s invasion of Angola in the 1970s and ’80s. This great battle brought forward the end of apartheid’s hated regime—an “unparalleled contribution to African independence, freedom and justice,” in the words of Nelson Mandela.

The more working people in the U.S. understand about how Cuba’s socialist revolution was led to victory and how it has endured, the better prepared we will be to meet the challenges posed by the crises of capitalism here.

Join Socialist Workers Party campaigners in ex-
plaining and defending Cuba’s living socialist revolu-
tion and building the party here that working people need to lead the coming American revolution!

Protests erupt after military coup in Sudan

BY TERRY EVANS

Determined to prevent a return to military rule, tens of thousands took to the streets across Sudan to protest a coup by Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan Oct. 25.

“Don’t give your back to the army, the army won’t protect you,” chanted demonstrators. Strikes broke out among miners and other workers and calls for a gen-
eral strike were played over mosque loudspeakers.

Demonstrators had protested in Khartoum a few days earlier warning against the prospects of the mili-

tary seizing power. To enforce his takeover, al-Burhan arrested Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, declared a state of emergency, announced the dissolution of all trade unions and left the Internet.

In 2019, weeks of street battles and strikes brought together working people from different na-
tional and religious backgrounds to topple the de-
cadelong rule of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

LETTERS

Dave Goldman

Dave Goldman, a longtime friend of the communist movement and former member of the Socialist Workers Party, passed away late last month. He was 55.

He later transferred to Seattle and worked in the shipyards, and as a union machinist at Boeing, build-
ing the union and advancing the party’s program. He dropped out of the party in the 1990s, but re-

ained a lifelong friend, attending major party forums and contributing generously to party funds.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate sub-
scriptions, Sena’s check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10180. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com.

Joanne Kaniyanszki, SWP candidate for New Jersey governor, talks to UAW member Lucas Harville at Aug. 4 UMWA solidarity rally for striking miners at Warrior Met in Brookwood, Alabama.

Joanne Kaniyanszki

The Militant

November 8, 2021

Death penalty is used to terrify working people

BY JANET ROTH

Two death-row inmates were executed in October, despite vociferous appeals challenging the death sentences imposed on Ernest Lee Johnson and Wil-

lie B. Smith on the basis they violated the Supreme Court’s 2002 ruling barring execution of “people with intellectual disabilities.”

Johnson, 61, was executed Oct. 5 by an injection of pentobarbital at the Bonne Terre, Missouri, state pris-

on. Smith, 52, was killed Oct. 21 by lethal injection at the state prison in Joliet, Illinois.

Both Johnson and Smith were African Americans.

Johnson, the son of a sharecropper, was born with fetal alcohol syndrome because of his mother’s addic-
tion to alcohol and cocaine while pregnant. Medical IQ tests showed he had the mental capacity of a child and was reading at a primary-school level. In 2008 a fifth of his brain tissue was removed in an operation for a brain tumor.

Johnson had been convicted and sentenced to death in 2005 for the 1994 killing of a manager and two workers while robbing Casey’s General Store in Co-

lumbia, Missouri. Johnson said he was under the in-
fluence of cocaine and was stealing money for drugs.

The death penalty in the U.S. is used to terrify and intimidate working people to defend capitalist proper-
ties and “law and order.” The ruling capitalist classes—what Marxists call “the bourgeoisie”—are able to carry out mass murder and use the state as a gang of hired thugs to intimidate working people to defend capitalist proper-
ties and “law and order.” The International Monetary Fund announced in June the International Monetary Fund announced an agreement that was supposed to end with their com-
plete withdrawal from government.

In August the Supreme Court denied Johnson’s petition against being put to death based on his being intellectually disabled. The court also de-
nied his request to be excused by firing squad, after his public defender, Jeremy Weis, argued that because of his brain operation pentobarbital could trigger painful seizures.

Johnson and Smith’s execution, dozens of people demonstrated outside the prison grounds, Gov. Mi-

chael Parson’s office, and the Boone County Court 

house, organized by Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. “So many states are moving against the death penalty now and Missouri is one of the keeping this barbaric injustice going,” said demonstra-
tor and MAPD member Laird Okie.

Catholic Pope Francis also appealed to Gov. Par-

son against Johnson’s execution. On Oct. 20, 2020 he issued a papal encyclical to all bishops ratifying the call for abolition of the death penalty, first put forward by Francis in 2010.

Willie B. Smith was executed after nearly 30 years on death row. He was convicted in 1991 of abducting, shooting and killing Sharma Ruth Johnson, after he used her bankcard to withdraw $80 from an ATM ma-

chine in Columbia, Missouri. Johnson said he was under the in-
fluence B. Smith on the basis they violated the Supreme 
Court’s 2002 ruling barring execution of “people with intellectual disabilities.”

This has been a growing fight in similar cases in recent months. The victory meant Smith became the first Alabama death-row inmate to have his own pas-
tor with him during his execution.

Smith’s IQ tests showed he had the mental capacity of a child and was reading at a primary-school level. In 2002 his IQ score was unconstitutional. But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit refused to apply that decision to Smith, arguing he was sentenced before it was issued. It was proper to put him to death, the court said, because of that “matter of timing.”

Despite growing public opposition to the death pen-
alty, the capitalist rulers’ death chambers remain ac-

tive. The next execution—of John Marin Grant—is scheduled for Oct. 28 in Oklahoma.